

THE DIAL

A Monthly Journal of Current Literature

PUBLISHED BY
A. C. McCLURG & CO.

CHICAGO, JULY, 1889.

[Vol. X., No. 111.]
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THE DIAL

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EMERSON'S PRIVATE LIFE.*

There have been five previous publications connected with the life of the Concord sage. The first memoir was written by George W. Cooke, soon after Emerson's death. Oliver Wendell Holmes wrote the volume for the "American Men of Letters" series, and Richard Garnett that for the "Great Writers" series. The authorized life was the work of James Elliott Cabot, the literary executor of Emerson. David Greene Haskins has published a volume on "The Maternal Ancestors of Ralph Waldo Emerson," with recollections of the poet-essayist. But in spite of this collection of Emerson memoirs, the book before us is valuable for what it adds to all others—a vivid portrayal of the man in his private life. The author says:

"I write for my father's neighbors and near friends, though I include many who perhaps never saw him. His public life and works have been so well told and critically estimated by several good and friendly hands that I pass lightly over them, to show to those who care to see, more fully than could be done in Mr. Cabot's book consistently with its symmetry, the citizen and villager and householder, the friend and neighbor. And

* EMERSON IN CONCORD. A Memoir written for "The Social Circle" in Concord, Mass. By Edward Waldo Emerson. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

if I magnify, perhaps unduly, this aspect of my father, it is to show those whom his writings have helped or moved that his daily life was in accord with his teachings."

As the title indicates, the book was written for the Concord "Social Circle," of which we shall get the best idea from one of Emerson's letters:

"Much the best society I have ever known is a Club in Concord called the Social Circle, consisting always of twenty-five of our citizens, doctor, lawyer, farmer, trader, miller, mechanic, etc., solidest of men, who yield the solidest of gossip. Harvard University is a wafer compared to the solid land which my friends represent. I do not like to be absent from home on Tuesday evenings in winter."

The first fifty pages give the details of biography, adding little unpublished before except the incidents that make more vivid Emerson's boyhood and youth. We are told that the boy Ralph handled a shovel, for a few hours of boyish enthusiasm, in fortifying Boston harbor during the war of 1812, as his grandfather had been chaplain at Concord fight; that he daily drove the cow down the present fashionable Beacon Hill, and with his brothers took care of the vestry of the church to which his father had ministered; how he entered college as President's freshman, earning his lodging by running errands, and later paid part of his board by waiting on table at Commons; how he occasionally obtained money by writing essays for his less skilful fellows; nor are we surprised to learn that "the expenses to meet which these boys wanted money seem to have been oil, paper, and quills." Everyone knows that Emerson's record in college was not brilliant, that his school teaching afterwards was not wonderfully successful, and that his pastorate ended in apparent failure. But even at this time he seems to have felt that he had a work peculiarly his own, and to have undertaken it unostentatiously but with belief in his power to succeed. He returned from his visit to Wordsworth and Carlyle with some feeling of disappointment; and dislike of the pessimism of the latter prompts a characteristic entry in his journal:

"It is the true heroism and the true wisdom, *Hope*. The wise are always cheerful. The reason is (and it is a blessed reason) that the eye sees that the ultimate issues of all things are good."

It is the citizen Emerson that interests us especially. He believed in civic duty. "A man must ride alternately on the horses of his

private and public nature." With such a belief, he did not hesitate to accept the least office in the gift of his townsmen. Emerson the philosopher was once Emerson the hog-reeve—an office to which he was chosen soon after his marriage, in accordance with venerable custom. He served on the school committee early and long. He became a member of the fire association, and he regularly sent his best garden specimens to the "cattle-show" exhibition. He made it a point to attend town-meeting, and many an entry in his journal indicates interest, if not in the affairs of the town, at least in his townsmen. The great anti-slavery struggle found Emerson always on the side of freedom, as we should expect; but he did not join himself to the leaders in the agitation. He rightly estimated that he was not fitted for their work. Liberty was axiomatic with him, and, unable to understand the position of its opponents, he could not successfully argue its truth. He claimed that his work included the work of the reformers, and it was belief in the importance of his special work that prevented his giving his life to the cause. How deeply he felt this, as well as how thoroughly he sympathized with the movement for freedom, we may see from an entry in his journal in 1852.

"I waked last night and bemoaned myself because I had not thrown myself into this deplorable question of Slavery, which seems to want nothing so much as a few assured voices. But then in hours of sanity I recover myself, and say, God must govern his own world, and knows his way out of this pit without my desertion of my post, which has none to guard it but me."

A peculiar sweetness and gentleness has always been attributed to Emerson's character. The anecdote is familiar of the work-woman who, on expressing intention of going to hear the lecturer, was asked, "Do you understand Mr. Emerson?" "Not a word; but I like to go and see him stand up there and look as if he thought everyone was as good as he was." There is much in the present volume to indicate not only the love of Emerson's neighbors, but his own broad humanitarianism. There are many characteristic references to his neighbors, common men in whom he was constantly finding the most uncommon qualities. The thrifty farmer, the practical man of affairs, were each possessed of a peculiar genius. This is finely shown by a passage attributed to Thoreau in Sanborn's *Life*, but now settled without doubt as Emerson's:

"Look over the fence yonder into Captain Abel's land. There's a musician for you, who knows how to

make men dance for him in all weathers; and all sorts of men, paddies, felons, farmers, carpenters, painters, yes, and trees and grapes and ice and stone, hot days and cold days."

His love of men was of the practical sort. No fanatic or other mad theorist failed of a welcome and courteous treatment at his home. An amusing anecdote is told of a Russian reformer, who insisted on keeping his hat on in the house while he related his story. Emerson kindly suggested taking the hat, three times, without success; but finally conquered by a "Very well, then, we will walk in the yard," and there he patiently heard the mission of his unconventional guest. There was the same unselfish and warm regard for his literary friends, Alcott, Hawthorne, Thoreau. Alcott's "conversation is sublime." Thoreau is "the good river-god" who has "introduced me to the riches of his shadowy starlight, moonlit stream, a lovely new world lying as close and yet as unknown to this vulgar trite one of streets and shops, as death to life, or poetry to prose."

There are some striking likenesses to Wordsworth in Emerson's habits. "Emerson's best writings," says Garnett, "are the breathings of a soul saturated with sylvan influences." His journals are full of references to his retirement to the pine woods of his little farm for meditation,—consulting the oracles, as he called it. This was his place of thought, his study, while the library was the place of recording and uniting into proper literary form. The few lines of prose suggested as he sat on the bank of the Musketauquid became the beautiful poem "The Two Rivers." Like Wordsworth, he loved walking rather than riding; he skated with his children at fifty on Walden Pond, as Wordsworth on Lake Windermere; and it is characteristic that, although he purchased a rifle at one time, he never shot any living creature. New testimony is added to his hard work through life, writing in summer and lecturing in winter; seldom taking a vacation, though often bemoaning that he did so little. His manner of writing is well known. For the first time an attempt is made, in this volume, to trace the development of his poetry. The writer divides his poetical activity into three epochs: "The youthful or imitative, the revolutionary, and the mature stages." The first period extends to 1834, ending with the Phi Beta Kappa poem in that year; the second includes the years 1835 to 1847, when his first volume of poems appeared; and the later

period from that publication. The poems of the first period show the influence of Pope in form and in metrical accuracy. The thought was metre-bound also; and it is only when he began to embody higher truths in his poems that the carelessness of metre and rhyme sometimes appears. The form was no longer paramount, the sensuous pleasure in perfect metrical form giving way to the intellectual pleasure in the embodiment of thought.

OLIVER F. EMERSON.

RECENT BOOKS ON SOCIAL QUESTIONS.*

One sits down to a batch of books on social questions with a distinct pleasure. He feels the throes of that immense activity with which men are working at the problem of the common prosperity, and the untiring determination with which they attack it on all sides with ever varying chance of success. Each one of these attempts is pretty sure to do something: to present some fresh facts, to enforce some new view, or, at the very least, to extend the knowledge of what is familiar. A book in philosophy must justify itself by very positive merit; a book in sociology is more easily justified, by virtue of the variety and magnitude of the demand.

"Prisoners of Poverty Abroad" is a companion volume to the author's previous work, "Prisoners of Poverty." The facts contained in these pages have been gathered chiefly in England, though the inquiries of the author have extended somewhat farther. Mrs. Campbell directs her attention to the work of women in a great variety of forms, and presents it in a thoroughly practical and sympathetic way. One cannot fail to desire that the book shall accomplish its purpose of making us more perfectly and feelingly aware of the breadth and the urgency of those social duties with which we have to deal. It is well fitted to abolish the indolent and unworthy impression that things will care for themselves, and may be left to work themselves out in their own fashion; as

if eternal heedfulness and untiring affection were not the price of all spiritual well-being and themselves a chief part of it.

The volume on "Coöperative Savings and Loan Associations" is much needed. It aims to give aid to a movement which is almost wholly beneficent, and is showing considerable power of self-propagation. Building associations, which sprang up in Philadelphia, are extending to many parts of the country. Mr. Dexter aims to narrate the facts concerning them, to explain their principles, to guide his readers to a just estimate of their value, and to give aid in their wise formation. He includes with them mutual savings and loan associations, accumulating fund associations, and coöperative banks. The aim of them all is to secure economy, and to give that economy its most direct and profitable results. Though these associations may not go far in working out the general prosperity, their contributions are very direct, very capable of extension, stand in easy affiliation with other means of improvement, and help, in a high degree, to awaken and nourish the temper of mind from which progress comes. The legal and practical details of these associations are fully given, and Mr. Dexter has rendered the cause of social improvement a real service, both on its theoretical and its practical side.

"The Plantation Negro as a Freeman" is a somewhat full discussion of the character of the negro in all the relations of life. It seems to be pervaded by a thoughtful, rather than by a truly beneficent, spirit. It is highly pessimistic in its conclusions. With the blacks as a whole, things are going from bad to worse; the ultimate outcome is likely to be a return to barbarism along a road of vice and wretchedness. Mr. Bruce represents that firm, not to say fierce, spirit in the South, examples of which have been frequently presented of late in our periodical literature,—a spirit which is deeply impressed with the injury which arose from a brief domination of the colored race, and is inspired with the determination that nothing of the sort shall again occur, no matter what the cost of resistance. This temper is not so much to be criticised in its primary sentiment as in the unnecessary apprehension and harshness which now accompany it. The circumstances following the war were entirely exceptional, and are not likely to return. Events would adjust themselves to present relations far more readily and comfortably, if these memories could be allowed to pass

* PRISONERS OF POVERTY ABROAD. By Helen Campbell. Boston: Roberts Brothers.

A TREATISE ON COÖPERATIVE SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATIONS. By Seymour Dexter. New York: D. Appleton & Co.

THE PLANTATION NEGRO AS A FREEMAN. By Philip A. Bruce. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons.

OUTLINES OF A NEW SCIENCE. By E. J. Donnell. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons.

SOCIAL PROGRESS. An Essay. By Daniel G. Thompson. New York: Longmans, Green & Co.

away, and present facts be suffered freely to take their place. Fear and aversion are bad counsellors, even when there is abundant occasion for them. It is a very pitiful confession to be compelled to say that we can get along with a race as placable as the negro better on terms of slavery than of freedom; that the one hopeless fact is that from which all hope must come—the fact of freedom. Justice and good-will have lost their power as redemptive agencies in the minds of those men who are so quick—a thing quite right in itself—to assert their own opportunities. They do not look upon or estimate their own spirit as it impresses others. The author says, in conclusion:

“Fervent should be the prayer that the course of future events will solve this momentous problem at last in a way that will redound to the prosperity of the South and the glory of the Union. In the meanwhile, the Southern people are using every means in their reach to bring about this consummation, and upon the efforts that they have made and are still making with that view they may well invoke, in the language of the Emancipation Proclamation that precipitated the special evils that now environ them, ‘the considerate judgment of mankind and the gracious favor of Almighty God.’”

While we heartily respond to this petition, we believe,—not, we trust, underestimating the gravity of the situation—that its answer must be found in a more concessive and considerate inquiry on the part of leaders at the South into the safety and well-being of the blacks. The real danger to both portions of the community lies, not in the domination of the negro race, but in its unjust subjection. Let the sense of this danger be removed, and relations would at once become more kindly, and good influences more productive. The carpet bag *régime* was most unfortunate, as calling out so many senseless fears and blinding passions.

The “Outlines of a New Science,” like the volume just spoken of, belongs to the series of “Questions of the Day.” It is admirably gotten up, but has very little claim to attention. The author is misled by scientific phraseology, and wanders about in a very vague fashion. The new Science seems to be Economics extended, in an unintelligible way, into the Science of Man.

“Social Progress” is a discussion of familiar ground from the standpoint of evolution. The first part considers the relation of law and liberty, security in the state, and the equality of rights and powers. The conclusions reached are thoroughly democratic, and are not to be

objected to, for the most part. The author takes his stand, in common with the school to which he belongs, on the rights of the individual, and fails to fully recognize the relatively independent organic force of society. That is the point at which recent thought is making most decided objection to the extreme individuation involved in a purely empirical, voluntary construction of the state. The second portion of the work, discussing the means of promoting social progress, is fresher than the earlier portion. The need of change and the formation and expression of opinion are clearly and emphatically enforced. The summation of the work seems to be, “Just and true liberty, equal and impartial liberty, is the thing we stand in need of.” The constancy with which we return to such expressions as “equal and impartial liberty,” notwithstanding the difficulty we meet with in defining in what this equality and impartiality consist, shows that we are dealing with a very real idea. If the phrase is a “glittering generality,” it is so because of a very constant ray of truth it contains. Our author, we think, lays too much emphasis on liberty as the absence of restraint, and too little on that which alone makes liberty significant—the accumulation of powers in our individual and collective relations.

JOHN BASCOM.

AN AMERICAN DIPLOMAT.*

Admitted to the New York bar at the age of twenty, Gouverneur Morris was for seventeen years engaged in the practice of law and in the service of his country before he could gratify his desire to see the world. So much, indeed, was he occupied with the making of history that he found no time for writing it; and a single chapter covers the first epoch of his public life. “I could not,” he says, “furnish any tolerable memorandum of my existence, during that eventful period of American history.” The remainder of the work increases the regret that we have not from his pen some account of the winter at Valley Forge; of the planning of the first United States Bank; and of the Constitutional Convention. The practical knowledge of men and of the science of finance, acquired in this period, is undoubtedly the chief cause of the self-reliance and decision that are characteristic of his later life. To

* DIARY AND LETTERS OF GOUVERNEUR MORRIS. Edited by Anne Cary Morris. In two volumes. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.

this was no doubt due in some measure the remarkable success that followed him all over Europe. Not only was he received in the best social circles, but his opinion was sought by many of the most eminent men of the time.

The ten years spent in Europe represent the second period of Morris's life. In a letter to Robert Morris, he enumerates some of the financial undertakings that occupied much of his time during the first years abroad :

"Indian voyages, the liquidated debt, debts to Spain and France of the United States, the Fairfax estates, the sale of land in America,—and last, but not much the most difficult task of all, your various debts and engagements. Here I have had to perform the task of the Israelites in Egypt—to make bricks without straw."

From February 1789 to January 1793, the Diary follows pretty closely the course of events. Then it stops, "because the situation of things is such that to continue the journal would compromise too many people." Beneath the careless and brilliant social life is seen the steadily approaching storm. Morris writes of a visit to the Duchess of Orleans at Raincy :

"A number of persons surround the windows, and doubtless form a high idea of the company, to whom they are obliged to look up at an awful distance. Ah, did they but know how trivial the conversation, how very trivial the characters, their respect would soon be changed to an emotion extremely different."

Of the political situation, he wrote to the French Ambassador in London soon after his arrival :

"Stay where you are a little while, and when you come back you will hardly know your country. . . . Republicanism is absolutely a moral influenza from which neither title, place, nor even the diadem, can guard their possessors."

Morris does not seem to have been popular with those in authority, but commanded their respect. Madame de Staël says to him, "I hear you quoted on all sides." He came into more or less intimate relations with Necker, Siéyès, Dumouriez, and was invited to confer with a Committee of the States General appointed to report on a Constitution. The three persons most frequently mentioned in the first volume are M. de Lafayette, Madame de Flahaut, and the Bishop of Autun. At first one fails to recognize, in the Abbé Périgord and the Bishop of Autun, the well-known Talleyrand Périgord of the next century. We find Lafayette and the Bishop meeting at breakfast with Morris, and frequently taking counsel with him regarding the political situation. Morris had no great respect, apparently, for either of them. The Bishop appeared to him

sly, cunning, ambitious, and malicious. Naturally at this time the interest of the chronicler centres in the rapid succession of political events. Morris tells of the taking of the Bastille, while the Comte d'Artois was giving a banquet at Versailles. A few days later he visited the ruins of this stronghold of iniquity, and in another striking passage describes the last day of the Royal family at Versailles.

Hitherto Morris has been simply a visitor in France. Appointed Minister of the United States in 1791, Morris was presented to the King a few weeks before the attack on the Tuileries. During all those terrible months, he alone of the Diplomatic Corps remained in Paris. "It is true," he wrote, "that the position is not without danger; but I presume that when the President did me the honor of naming me to this Embassy, it was not for my personal pleasure or safety, but to promote the interests of my country." His house was searched, and he himself was arrested. The fact that he had no more serious trouble was probably due in great measure to his own tact and firmness. He rendered material assistance to many old friends, and there is reason to believe that he took part in a plan for the King's escape. It is not strange that report condemned him to the guillotine; nor that he should have written, in August 1794 : "Presenting my successor, which I did yesterday, to the Commission, has given me more pleasure than any event for many months."

The Diary follows Morris to Hamburg by way of Switzerland. He visited Necker and Madame de Staël at Coppet, finding friends among the *émigrés* everywhere. He was presented at the courts of Dresden, Berlin, and Brunswick. When Lafayette was surrendered, by the Austrian Government, to the American Consul at Hamburg, out of consideration for the United States, Morris was at hand to accompany the Imperial Minister to the ceremony of delivering the prisoner. The Diary has a most characteristic entry in July of the following year :

"M. de Lafayette called on me and asked my advice whether he should go immediately to America, or stay awhile longer. I tell him that he has made up his mind to stay; this he blushing acknowledges. . . . Always declaring his resolution to lead a private life, he sighs still for an opportunity of appearing again on the public theatre."

Morris landed in the United States the day before Christmas, 1798. His apparent determination to become a farmer at Morrisania was

interfered with by his election to the United States Senate, which he pronounced unfortunate. Although a Federalist, Morris was strongly opposed to the attempt to make Burr president. He was evidently opposed to the war of 1812. In January 1814 we find him assuming that New England will meet in Convention and throw off all allegiance to the United States, — wondering only whether the Susquehanna or the Delaware will be the boundary. He seems to have had the right to say, shortly before his death, at the early age of sixty-four :

"The welfare of our country is my single object, and although I never sought, refused, or resigned an office, there is no department of government in which I have not been called to act, with what success it is not for me to say."

In editing the Diary and Letters of her grandfather, Miss Morris has done her work well. The interest of the narrative is often due to her skill. An excellent index forms a fitting complement to these valuable volumes.

J. L. WHITE.

ENGLISH MEN OF ACTION.*

Messrs. Macmillan & Co. have selected an admirable set of brief biographies in their "English Men of Action." The volumes are small, attractive, and inexpensive. Each is devoted to some "subject of the British Crown who has in any capacity, at home or abroad, by land or sea, been conspicuous for actions in its service." The subjects and writers of the volumes thus far issued are: Henry the Fifth, by the Rev. A. J. Church; Gordon, by Colonel Butler; Livingstone, by Thomas Hughes; Lord Lawrence, by Sir Richard Temple; and Wellington, by George Hooper. The volume by Professor Church is such as we might expect from that excellent writer and accomplished historian. Henry the real man has too long suffered from association in popular opinion with that erratic creation, partly of legend partly of Shakespeare's imagination, "Prince Hal." Professor Church's criticism leaves

little of the roystering friend of Falstaff, who struck the Chief Justice and pilfered his dying father's crown; but he restores to us the able soldier who held important military command in his sixteenth year, and the vigorous ruler who was sworn of his father's Privy Council at nineteen. Henry the Fifth was not a great statesman, — for the purpose to which he gave his life convicts him of lack of statesmanlike views, — but he was one of England's ablest soldiers; and this narrative is a faithful sketch of an interesting career in the military annals of the race. Professor Church says in closing :

"Of Henry's qualities as a military leader it is impossible to speak too highly. The one possible exception where he may be thought to have failed, not indeed in skill but in prudence, was the march from Harfleur to Calais. Yet it was a piece of calculated audacity abundantly justified by the results. . . . He had to make an impressive display of his superiority if he was to be accepted as the future conqueror of France. His career after this was one of unbroken success — success earned by courage, foresight, tactical skill, fertility of resource, economy of strength, in short, by all the qualities of a great captain. There is no more conclusive proof of his greatness than the instantaneous change which his presence wrought in the prospects of a campaign: *Ipsa adventu profligata bella.*"

Henry the Fifth voiced a national sentiment in his attempt to crush France. General Gordon was but a "soldier of fortune," and yet the "adventurer" will stand far higher on the permanent roll of fame than the Plantagenet. For after his initiation, in the Crimean and Opium Wars, Gordon ceased to fight in "wars of ambition," and gave his great genius for mastery to the cause of law and civilization and charity. Colonel Butler has a noble theme, and makes a fascinating book, as he leads us in the wake of that bamboo cane, more potent than sword or sceptre, or shows us the Christian soldier for six years at Gravesend, redeeming not only souls but lives from the gutters and slums. His single-handed fight against slavery in the Soudan is pathetically told; and the account of his last effort for the helpless, when he risked all to bring off the non-combatants from that desolated and government-forsaken land, is a fine tribute to a grand hero. With true insight, too, the author fixes the cause of Gordon's failure and death in the "struggle between the permanent under-Government and the temporary upper-Government." In his judgment the latter, the Gladstone ministry, was thwarted in its peaceful policy by the warlike purposes of "the bureau" — the conservative permanent officials in every department of the administration,

* GENERAL GORDON. By Col. Sir William Butler. New York: Macmillan & Co.

HENRY THE FIFTH. By the Rev. A. J. Church. New York: Macmillan & Co.

LIVINGSTONE. By Thomas Hughes. New York: Macmillan & Co.

LORD LAWRENCE. By Sir Richard Temple. New York: Macmillan & Co.

WELLINGTON. By George Hooper. New York: Macmillan & Co.

who may say, Cabinets may come and Cabinets may go, but we go on forever.

That charming friend of our boyhood, Tom Hughes, has already had his story told for him, either in Livingstone's own writings, or in Stanley's records of African travel. Yet the story of Livingstone's life cannot be told too often, and we are glad to welcome it once again in this brief narrative by a man who has fixed for our gaze "the manliness of Christ." In the simple and vigorous English which is already familiar to us all, Mr. Hughes gathers up the leading facts of a life which will ever inspire to heroic achievement and calm endurance. No one could tell this story better than this latest biographer. Wisely he allows his narrative through many pages to adopt the exact language of this devoted man of action—language as direct and forcible as his conduct. Wisely too, instead of summing up a character which all men already estimate at its true worth, he makes his closing chapter "a few words as to the fruit that grain of martyr-wheat has borne in the last sixteen years, and the prospect of the harvest in 1889." A brief survey of the work done by the Universities Mission, the Scotch Missions, the Church Missionary Society, and the African Lakes Company, best indicates how much Livingstone did for Africa as a pioneer. But already, when this last chapter went to press, the German African Company, driven by that "earth-hunger" so contrary to the spirit of Livingstone, was looming ominously upon the eastern seaboard; and at this moment it is a matter of anxious inquiry whether or not the Cæsarism of Bismarck shall make shipwreck of African Missions.

Lord Lawrence is equally fortunate with Livingstone in his biographer for this series. Sir Richard Temple is not only a veteran Indian administrator, but was a member of Lawrence's official family, and very near to him in personal relation. His admiration for his old chief verges on veneration, but it is a veneration which the world fully shares. In the following passage the author correctly analyzes the masterful qualities of this greatest of Viceroyes, and well brings out the secret of his rare success:

"He evinced only two qualities in an uncommon degree, namely energy and resolution. But if he was not a man of genius in the ordinary acceptation of the term, there must have been a certain genius in him, and that was virtue. Such genius is indeed heaven-born, and this was the moral force which combined all his faculties into a harmonious whole and made him a potent

instrument for good, a man of peace or of war, according to the requirements of right and justice."

Take him all in all, one is tempted to say that John Lawrence is the most perfectly balanced character in all nineteenth-century public life. Heroic in all his proportions, there is nothing trivial or petty in even his ordinary deeds or words. As pure a devotee to the welfare of man as either Gordon or Livingstone, his exalted position gave him opportunity which the latter never enjoyed for the noblest and wisest handling of the fortunes of many millions of fellow-beings, and proved that he possessed that complete sanity of vision which the enthusiast of Khartoum at times sadly lacked. Lawrence's life gives the answer to every sorrowful pessimist distrustful of his race and questioning if life be worth living.

"His accidency" of Red River Rebellion and Tel el Kebir fame has recently denied that Wellington was a great general. But Lord Wolseley's claim to be considered either a truthful chronicler or a wise critic has been so completely shattered in recent controversies into which his shallow criticism has drawn him, that it was hardly necessary, at least for American readers, for Mr. Hooper to vindicate the Iron Duke against one whom a recent writer in "The Nation" happily calls "a Brummagen Wellington." The test of ability in the long run is success, and the man who began life as Arthur Wellesley can safely stand this test. In Mr. Hooper's pages we follow one continuous rush of conflict from Seringapatam to Waterloo, and read in many a skilfully told narrative the story of a great soldier and captain. *Discipline* was the basis on which his success rested, from the beginning of his life of command in Ireland in 1793, when in a few months his regiment "was officially declared to be the best-drilled and most efficient within the limits of the Irish command." But Wellington was not only an admirable drill-master and provost-marshal; he was a great soldier and a masterly general. If Assaye and Talavera beyond all question prove him a master of tactics, equally does his whole series of campaigns in the Spanish peninsula prove him a great strategist. Mr. Hooper has well shown all these characteristics which made the Duke England's greatest commander. But he has also most exquisitely revealed the warm-hearted man of feeling beneath the battle-tryed man of action. There is perhaps in all biography no more admirable revelation of personal character than is given in these pages.

J. J. HALSEY.

RECENT FICTION.*

Mr. Froude's "The Two Chiefs of Dunboy" is a striking historical novel with a great deal of substantial truth in the disguise of fiction. Perhaps we should not say disguise, after all; for in many of the chapters it is avowedly the historian, and not the romancer, who speaks. The scene is laid in the middle of the last century, upon the southwest coast of Ireland, being occasionally shifted to the home of an exiled Irishman engaged in shipbuilding and commerce at Nantes. The two principal and strongly contrasted characters are Colonel Goring, an English revenue officer at Dunboy, and Morty Sullivan, a soldier of fortune and Irish "patriot" of the type equally familiar in those days and in our own. That there was some excuse for the existence of this sort of patriotism a hundred years ago, Mr. Froude would himself be the last to deny; and he is unsparing in his denunciation of the foolish laws imposed by the English Parliament upon the commerce and internal economy of the sister island. But he is equally unsparing in his portrayal of the lawless Irish character, with its deep-seated prejudices and its unreasoning hatred of England; and the reader's sympathies go, as they should, with the stern Cromwellian English officer in his feud with the Irish privateer. The result is a double tragedy,—the Englishman falling a victim to the treachery of his opponent, and the latter meeting his just deserts at the hands of the English soldiers. As a novel, the work is vigorous, and

well planned; as a historical and social picture, it deserves very high praise. Especially fine is its delineation of the vacillating and pusillanimous English policy toward Ireland, so unlike English policy in general and so untrue to the long line of its best traditions.

A better historical novel than Mr. Froude's is "Micah Clarke," by Mr. A. Conan Doyle. The actual title of the book fills some score of lines on the title-page, being descriptive, after the old-fashioned style affected by the writer throughout, of the subject matter of the work. It is more to our present purpose to say briefly that the story is of the Monmouth Rebellion of 1685, than to quote a title whose prolixity indicates the principal fault of the text that follows. The narrative is in the first person, the narrator being a young hero of Roundhead stock, whose father sends him forth to do battle against Popery and King James. In spite of its great length, the story really presents a vivid historical picture of the causes which led to the uprising in support of Monmouth, and of the progress of that movement up to its final suppression with the battle of Sedgemoor and the bloody execution done upon the rebels by the infamous Jeffreys. The author reminds us a little of Scott, and a good deal of Blackmore. The type of militant dissenting preacher, which Scott pictured with such richness and penetration in "Old Mortality" and elsewhere, is very well imitated by Mr. Doyle in his picture of the Puritan leaders of Monmouth's army. On the other hand, such a type as the old sea-captain Solomon Sprent, if his language is a little too ingeniously nautical at times, is very like the similar figures in Blackmore's novels; and the style of "Micah Clarke," although not nearly so picturesque, suggestive, or rhythmical, often makes one think of the style of "Lorna Doone." On the whole, the story is healthy and robust in tone, and of absorbing interest for both young and old.

Mr. Julian Corbett's "Kophetua the Thirteenth" is a decidedly odd romance. To free himself from the ordinary limitations of the novelist, the writer has invented a country and a people for his story, taking care to exterminate the latter after they have served his purpose. Of course there is a beggar-maid in the story, and the hero himself is a lineal descendant of the ballad-famed Kophetua. The narrative must be characterized as ingeniously dull, having neither practical nor utopian human interest.

* THE TWO CHIEFS OF DUNBOY; OR, AN IRISH ROMANCE OF THE LAST CENTURY. By J. A. Froude. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.

MICAH CLARKE. By A. Conan Doyle. New York: Longmans, Green, & Co.

KOPHETUA THE THIRTEENTH. By Julian Corbett. New York: Macmillan & Co.

AN AUTHOR'S LOVE. Being the Unpublished Letters of Prosper Mérimée's "Inconnue." New York: Macmillan & Co.

THE WRONG BOX. By Robert Louis Stevenson and Lloyd Osbourne. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.

GREIFENSTEIN. By F. Marion Crawford. New York: Macmillan & Co.

PASSE ROSE. By Arthur Sherburne Hardy. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

THE OPEN DOOR. By Blanche Willis Howard. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

AN ALIEN FROM THE COMMONWEALTH. By Robert Tinsol. Boston: Cupples & Hurd.

VAGABOND TALES. By Hjalmar Hjorth Boyesen. Boston: D. Lothrop Co.

A VENETIAN STUDY IN BLACK AND WHITE. By Charles Edward Barns. New York: Willard Fracker & Co.

THE MOUSE-TRAP, AND OTHER FARCES. By W. D. Howells. New York: Harper & Brothers.

THE SLEEPING CAR, AND OTHER FARCES. By William D. Howells. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

"An Author's Love" is a work of fiction none the less for pretending to be true. Whether Mérimée's "Lettres à une Inconnue" were real letters, written to a real woman, is still one of the open questions of literature; but no reader of these pretended replies to those letters will have any doubt of their imaginary character, whatever may be his theory of the work which made so considerable a posthumous addition to the reputation of the brilliant Frenchman. It is only by contrast that the replies set off the brilliancy of the originals; and it is difficult to think of Mérimée as fascinated, for a long term of years, with anyone who could write him in the rather stiff and affected style of these epistles.

"A little judicious levity" is the word of "The Wrong Box," a delightful story that Mr. Stevenson and his youthful collaborator Mr. Osbourne have provided for our summer reading. We assume, at least, that Mr. Osbourne is youthful, for the preface says that one of the authors is old enough to be ashamed of himself, and the other young enough to learn better. The former of these two propositions obviously refers to Mr. Stevenson, and the latter is thus left for his fellow-worker. The story is so consistently improbable, and is so entirely without a purpose, that it has quite the charm of one of the "New Arabian Nights," which amounts to saying that it is worth a whole wilderness of Jekylls and Hydys. It is one of those books that, once begun, cannot possibly be laid down until the last leaf is reluctantly turned. As for the story, we cannot begin to outline that; and among the characters, can only find space to record a special liking for the portentous bore who is the unconscious cause of all the complications, and for his sporting nephew whose opinions of literature are expressed far less frequently than we could wish. One of those opinions—concerning "The Athenæum"—we must quote:

"It had a name like one of those spots that Uncle Joseph used to hold forth at, and it was all full of the most awful swipes about poetry and the use of the globes. It was the kind of thing that nobody could read out of a lunatic asylum. The *Athenæum*, that was the name! Golly, what a paper!"

Mr. Crawford's "Greifenstein" is a story which illustrates the old moral precept that the sins of the fathers are visited upon the sons. Finally, however, the characters of the younger generation are permitted to escape what must be regarded as the logical consequences of their parents' acts, upon the some-

what questionable plea that they, after all, are not responsible for what other people have done. That the story is weakened by this, there can be no doubt. From the start, it is logically bound to develop into a full-proportioned tragedy; but this due development is checked midway by a resort to somewhat casuistical devices, and, the older generation having expiated its guilt in conventionally tragic fashion, the younger generation is permitted to live and enjoy itself. Apart from this structural defect, the plot is constructed and the action carried out with really remarkable skill,—except near the close, where a wholly unnecessary complication is introduced in the passion of Rex for Greifenstein's wife. In this respect, the denouement is nearly as absurd as that of Goethe's "Stella" in its original form. Nothing is more remarkable about this novel than the manner in which Mr. Crawford has assimilated the German romantic style, and given a distinctly Northern atmosphere to his story. The observant cosmopolitan appears here as elsewhere in the author's work, and accounts for such features as the strikingly clear and interesting account of the "Korps" life of a German university town. To be sure, this matter is one that hardly has a place in the novel; but it is extremely well put and very interesting.

Professor's Hardy's "Passe Rose" is an exquisite piece of literature, but it has no more hold upon the facts of actual life than one of the Grimm Brothers' *Marechen*. Fairyland, or, at least, the land of mediæval romance, is the real home of the figures in this story of the days of Charlemagne. We can hardly look upon them as creatures of flesh and blood like ourselves, or upon their emotions as those of prosaic mankind. This matter of standpoint clearly understood, the reader who is prepared to give himself up to the poetical imaginings of the writer may be prepared to enjoy himself rarely. Guy of Tours, the Prince Charming of the tale; Passe Rose, the warm-blooded Provençal maiden; the great King himself, and the men and women of his court, are all creations of a singularly vivid imagination, and all inhabit, with peculiar fitness, their realm of fable. Descriptions of the kind which it is fashionable to call "word-pictures" abound in these pages, being very acceptable. And all together, scenes and figures and passions, have a very genuine though subtle charm for minds weary of realism and glad to breathe for a while the lighter and purer air of fancy.

In "The Open Door," Miss Howard has worked upon a larger canvas than usual. The result is a combination of strength and weakness, the strength being, on the whole, the more apparent. The countess is so exaggerated a type of silly egotism as to be unreal and consequently ineffective, and there is a great deal too much said about her pet dog "Mousey." On the other hand, we have in Gabrielle a fine picture of the young girl of healthy instincts and sincere nature, and in Count Hugo a strong and natural portrayal of suffering. For the hero of the story is a young man cut off in the prime of manhood from most of the pleasures of life by a fall from his horse, which leaves him a hopeless cripple. As for "the open door," that is the phrase with which Epictetus reminds us that if life become intolerable there is a way out of it, and that if we do not take it we have no reason for complaint. Our hero thinks seriously of accepting the stoic solution of the problem, but hesitates before the final step. By his hesitation he is lost—or saved—as the reader may please; for the horizon of life, at first, after the shock, so irremediably narrowed for him, broadens again as his sympathies learn to embrace other sufferings than his own, and love comes finally to light up his gloomy existence, and make happiness a possibility for him. In all that concerns the history and the relations of these two—Count Hugo and Gabrielle—the story is sweet, pathetic, and true. The rest of it may be allowed for the sake of contrast, and in the lighter miscellaneous passages there are many touches of keen characterization and of suggestive humor. The style is mostly good, although we have noticed a few lapses from correct English. We do not doubt that the book will find a warm welcome, and few novels of the season have as much to recommend them.

Mr. Robert Tinsol's "An Alien from the Commonwealth" is an odd sort of book, and an interesting one. It tells the story of an "unpractical" young man, thrown upon his own resources, after receiving a good education, and anything but fitted for the competitive conditions of American money-getting life. He is successively a lawyer, teacher, and journalist, and comes finally into an unexpected fortune—an incident which rather mars than helps the story. The character of the hero seems to be too fine for even the writer to fully appreciate, and resort seems to be had to the millionaire uncle by way of atonement for the rough world's

way of dealing with a sensitive and refined nature. We are inclined to think that the moral would have been better without this adjunct. The satisfaction of living up to one's own ideals is, or ought to be, a sufficient substitute for the gross material satisfaction that most men are aiming at; and we even fear that our hero's unexpected luck may have done him little real good. The author of this book is evidently a young man, with a taste for forcible rather than elegant forms of expression, and a considerable sense of humor. We judge that his experience with the race of publishers has embittered him towards that useful section of the community, for his descriptions of their doings, as typified by the firm of Lybert and Company, is in a vein of the wildest burlesque. Perhaps, however, we should not credit wholly to the writer the opinion of the cynical hack who figures largely in the latter half of the story. Whether truthful or not, these opinions are the most amusing things in the volume, as the following exhortation to the hero will exemplify:

"Take me for a warning, if you will: I've borne a share in the guilt and in the punishment. It's a painful subject, but long ago I wrote several books, and I've never recovered from the effects. It gives a fatally wrong direction to one's mind. It's a bad thing to be mixed up with literature at all, even as we are, in this comparatively useful way of warding off inflictions from the public. If we had not taken the itch, though in this modified form, we might have come to some good end, in soap, or stocks, or salt fish, or boots and shoes. You needn't smile, my poor young friend; if you've not learned your lesson yet, you will in time. Do you think even Lybert is happy? No, sir. True, he's made near a million, but he sees others who began at the same time and went into something really necessary to the welfare of mankind, such as whiskey, or tobacco, or Wall Street, or explosive compounds, and are now worth ten times as much. No, in his heart he's not content with the book trade."

Mr. Boyesen's "Vagabond Tales" are seven in number, and have already seen the light in various periodicals. They deal with the Norseman at home and in America, and generally tell of his falling in love, leaving a suggested vista of coming happiness before the eye at the close. To this there are one or two exceptions, the endings in these cases being as pathetic as one could wish. Mr. Boyesen repeats himself a good deal in his types, but every story has a peculiar freshness of its own, notwithstanding the repetition. In this respect, he reminds us strongly, *mutatis mutandis*, of Mr. Bret Harte, and his delineations of Western life.

"A Venetian Study in Black and White," by Charles Edward Barns, is a delirious work of fiction from whose incoherent mass the

threads of a moderately intelligible romance may be picked out with the exercise of some patience. The style of its writer is unlike anything outside such literature as *Bedlam* may be supposed to possess. A rather pretty title-page and generally attractive bookmaking constitute the only claims of the work upon the reader's attention. Mr. Barns seems to be a genius hitherto unknown to fame, and has now put forth, in addition to the extraordinary book above mentioned, several other volumes of equally eccentric prose and verse.

A new volume of farces by Mr. Howells includes "The Garroters," "Five O'Clock Tea," "The Mouse-Trap," and "A Likely Story." They are in the writer's most playful vein, and in them we find a large share of the humor which seems to have departed from his later novels. Of course the characters in these little parlor comedies do nothing in particular, but they talk in a most natural and amusing way, and get into moral entanglements quite as mirth-provoking, in their way, as those grosser and more physical entanglements which the farce, as properly understood, has for its object to create. We cannot say much for the illustrations of this volume, all but one or two of them being distressingly bad.

Still another volume of these farces, issued by a rival publishing house, makes its appearance at the same time. This includes "The Parlor Car," "The Sleeping Car," "The Register," and "The Elevator." On the whole, this volume is the more amusing of the two. Mr. Howells was newer at the work when these comedies were written, and they have the ring of a more unforced humor. In fact, we know of nothing in Mr. Howells's work more irresistibly comical than the story of the Californian in "The Sleeping Car."

WILLIAM MORTON PAYNE.

BRIEFS ON NEW BOOKS.

At the birth of Richard Jefferies, the rural deities must surely have presided; for the secrets of meadow, wood, and stream were an open book to him. The collection made by his widow of his latest essays—published under the title of "Field and Hedgerow" (Longmans)—amply justifies Mr. Besant's recent "Eulogy" of the author. It is pleasant, in a day of critical scholarship and over-much learned threshing of straw, to meet with a writer who leads us once more to nature out-of-doors—for to read Jefferies is almost as good as a ramble in the woods and fields that he knew so well.

From the smell of the lamp, so fatal to poem or theme that touches nature, the pages of "Field and Hedgerow" are free; they yield, rather, an odor of fruit blossoms, white violets, and hawthorne sprays, and the breath of summer fresh from English meadows. The volume opens with Jefferies's last essay, "Hours of Spring," a pathetic piece, written when the shadow of approaching death was upon him. "A thousand thousand buds and leaves and flowers and blades of grass," he tells us, "things to note day by day, increasing so rapidly that no pencil can put them down, not even to number them,—and how to write the thoughts they give? All these without me—how can they manage without me? Orchis flower and cowslip—I cannot remember them all—I hear, as it were, the patter of their feet—flower and bud and the beautiful clouds that go over, with the sweet rush of rain, and the burst of sun glory among the leafy trees." In "The July Grass" he writes of a tuft of bird's-foot lotus: "Listen! that was the low sound of a summer wavelet striking the uncovered rock over there beneath the green sea. All things that are beautiful are found by chance, like everything that is good. Here by me is a praying-rug, just wide enough to kneel on. It is, indeed, too beautiful to kneel on, for the life in these golden flowers must not be broken down even for that purpose. They must not be defaced, not a stem bent; it is more reverent not to kneel on them, for this carpet prays itself." In "An English Deer Park" there are many beautiful passages. Looking skyward one bright day in the early spring, Jefferies sees, "Everywhere brown dots, and each a breathing creature—larks ceaselessly singing, and all unable to set forth their joy. Swift as is the vibration of their throats, they cannot pour the notes fast enough to express their eager welcome. As a shower falls from the sky, so falls the song of the larks. There is no end to them: they are everywhere; over every acre away across the plain to the downs, and up on the highest hill. Every crust of English bread has been sung over at its birth in the green blade by a lark." Jefferies's writings often breathe the purest spirit of poetry, fresh, genuine, sympathetic, and lack only—if, indeed, they may be said to lack—the mould of metrical art. It will be easily seen, even from the brief extracts given above, that the essays in "Field and Hedgerow," though descriptive, are not mere transcripts of sense-impressions. To Jefferies the intimations of nature were manifold; mountain and meadow, tree and flower, bird and insect, they all whispered to him something of the tale of humanity. But, unhappily, his ear was over-quick to catch the sadder accents, and the dominant note in his writings is a melancholy, often a despondent one. We miss entirely the strain of high cheerfulness and abounding faith that uplifts the verse of Wordsworth. The many notices of Jefferies that have recently appeared, while doing justice to his genius for observing and describing

nature, have laid too little stress upon his power of depicting a certain phase of human life. Few writers have excelled his accurate and sympathetic portraits of the dwellers in English farm and village.

IN Mombert's "History of Charles the Great" (Appleton), the author has furnished, not for scholars, but, in his own words, for "the public generally," an important "contribution to the literature of one of the most important and interesting periods in history." It is "for the most part drawn up from contemporary authorities, such as annals, chronicles, biographies, letters, laws, diplomas, poems, epitaphs." He says truly that "Charles the Great is incomparably the grandest name of the Middle Ages." He might have added that, if we measure by the after results of what men do, no other man has been greater. So large a character in the history of the world deserves larger space in its literature; and we are glad to welcome Dr. Mombert's five hundred octavo pages on a single reign. They are not too many for its weighty events. English readers have hitherto had no adequate presentation of this great reign, such as Martin has given to Frenchmen. The present work is encyclopædic, and covers every recorded feature of Charles's career as statesman, soldier, and man. His campaigns from the Vistula to the Garigliano or the Ebro are traced in detail; his political relations with the congeries of nationalities that owned his sway are also clearly set before us; a valuable chapter on the school of the palace and its director Alcuin brings out forcibly one of the noblest features of Charles's statesmanship; the imperial accession is handled in a thoughtful narrative which once or twice carries us beneath the surface of affairs with a shrewd reproduction of motives; finally, the Diets and the resulting capitularies receive much attention, and the latter are not only summarized but are set before us in judicious selections. A chapter on Administration shows us the *missi dominici* on their rounds, introduces us to the royal villas, the workings of the land system, and the sources of royal revenue. What we miss from the book is not a full material but a better method. One cannot see the town for the houses. Details are allowed to crowd out deductions from them; the spirit of the age, of the man, of the institutions, does not sufficiently appear. We look in vain for some of the philosophic interpretation of details which enlivens and gives so great value to Martin's chapters on this period. What is needed by the reader, burdened with so many details, and a narrative which rapidly moves over the face of half Europe, is generalization that shall unify the multitudinous facts, and gather them about principles of action. The bewilderment is made worse by the unfortunate typographical setting, which seems determined at times to make a paragraph of almost every sentence, and gives a sketchy and disconnected effect to the whole book. Still, with these

defects, the book is valuable, if only as a collection of hitherto widely scattered information.

UNDER the seductive title of "Authors at Home," Cassell & Co. have collected a series of papers, recently published in "The Critic," descriptive, for the most part, of the domestic surroundings and personal characteristics of prominent American writers. "How inexpressibly comfortable," exclaimed Mr. Carlyle, "to know our fellow-creature!" The American public, upon whom the spirit of Paul Pry seems to have descended, will not fail to appreciate the force of this observation—which is doubly true when the "fellow-creature" happens to be one elevated by talents or good-fortune above the multitude. Through the aid of this little volume, the curious reader may have the "inexpressible comfort" of knowing that Mr. T. B. Aldrich comes in occasionally from Lynn clad in "heavy, serviceable, reefing jacket," and that "the ends of his moustache, pointed somewhat in the French manner, seem to accentuate with a certain fitness and *chic* the quips and cranks which so often issue from beneath it"; that "Dr. Holmes has many more than the average allowance of ancestors, and that, as a descendant of Dudley, Bradstreet, the Olivers, Quineys, and Jacksons, his 'hut of stone' fronts on one of Boston's most aristocratic streets, though the dear river behind it flows almost close to its little garden gate"; that in Mr. Stedman's home "there is a pervading harmony of tone and tints, the rich draperies, the soft-toned carpets, the dusk of the tempered daylight, are skilfully used as an effective background to bring into relief the pictures, the works of art, and the rare bits of bric-a-brac"; that Mr. Warner's "head is capacious, his forehead high and clear, and the kindly eyes behind his eye-glasses are noticeably wide open,"—etc., etc. While admitting this volume to be a bright and readable skimming of impressions, we are inclined to question the claim, made in a prefatory note, that in its pages one gets a "closer and more intimate view of the authors sketched than their writings could possibly afford"—a rather sweeping statement, with which the gentlemen concerning whom it is made will scarcely concur. "Authors at Home" is acceptably printed and bound, and the papers it contains, though light and sketchy, are well-written and entertaining, and by no means to be confounded with the impertinent tittle-tattle of the daily newspapers.

AN attractive little volume entitled "Lost Leaders" (Longmans) reproduces a series of editorials written by Mr. Andrew Lang for the London "Daily News." While the articles doubtless appeared to better advantage in their original form—they seem rather brief and sketchy between book-covers—they contain enough good things to warrant their reprinting. The table of contents offers an agreeable diversity of subjects,—“Salmon Fishing,” “Sieur de Montaigne,” “Thackeray's Drawings,” “American Humor,” etc.,—and the themes are

treated with the author's usual grace, wit, and lightness of touch. Few writers of our day say so many bright things to the page as Mr. Lang. The following is a rather good hit at a phase of American journalism: "In American country newspapers there is usually one column devoted to facitæ, which appear to have been clipped out of the columns of other country papers. They live on each other, just as the natives of the Scilly Islands are feigned to eke out a precarious livelihood by taking in each other's washing." Samuel Pepys is thus neatly summarized: "No man is a hero to his valet, and unluckily Samuel Pepys, by way of a valet, chose posterity. All the trifles of temper, habit, vice, and social ways, which a keen-eyed valet may observe in his master, Samuel Pepys carefully recorded about himself, and bequeathed to the diversion of future generations. The world knows Pepys as the only man who ever wrote honest confessions, for Rousseau could not possibly be candid for five minutes together, and Saint Augustine was heavily handicapped by being a saint." Mr. Lang is one of those genial writers who beguile us into serious thinking under pretence of amusing us; his prescriptions of thought and criticism are too pleasantly "put up" to be unpalatable to the most general of general readers.

M. JUSSELAND'S "English Wayfaring Life in the Middle Ages (XIV. Century)," translated by Miss Lucy Toulmin Smith, is one of those works of detail, the fruit of great industry and erudition, which may be called a magazine of historical information, rather than a vivid historical picture. The careful student can obtain from it an accurate knowledge of this department of social life; but to general readers the descriptions lack vividness and picturesqueness, being rather a systematic analysis than a delineation of social relations. Having said so much, rather by way of definition than of criticism, we must give the highest praise to the book—its original execution, the accuracy and correctness of the translation, and the variety and excellence of the illustrations. These last are so numerous and so graphic that even without any text they would present a pretty complete picture of life upon the road in the Middle Ages. The book is divided into three parts: English Roads (including Bridges, Inns, etc.), Lay Wayfarers, and Religious Wayfarers; each part being divided into three chapters. In the chapter upon Religious Wayfarers, our author fully confirms the commonly received notions of the low state of morality among these classes, at the close of the Middle Ages, and the abuses of indulgences. Perhaps the most interesting discussion in the volume is in Chapter III. of Part II., "Outlaws, Wandering Workmen, and Peasants Out of Bond," the statements of which afford a valuable commentary to Professor Thorold Rogers's investigations into the results of the Black Death. It contains (page 274) an interesting comparison between the peasants' revolts of France and of England,

showing the more cool and orderly, and at the same time really more formidable, character of Wat Tyler's rebellion, as compared with that of the *Jacquerie*. An appendix contains some valuable documents. (Putnam.)

MR. WILSON W. BLAKE has industriously collected a great mass of information, and published it in handsome form in "The Cross, Ancient and Modern" (Randolph). The illustrations are one hundred and four in number, averaging exactly two to a page. It is certainly a useful piece of work, if only as material for future students; but we cannot say that the author's judgment equals his industry. The book contains much that is really curious and valuable. But there is always a great deal that is nonsensical and fallacious about such coincidences as those here pointed out, and we find no serious attempt to discriminate between forms that may really have had some meaning, and those in which the resemblance is only fortuitous. For example, on page 19 we have a number of Roman standards, in which the cross-piece of course presents the shape of which he is in search, but with absolutely no meaning. On the same page is a Roman *denarius*, on which the X (the symbol for ten *asses*) is made to do service for a "Cross of Saturn"—whatever that may be. Nothing is simpler or more natural than the form of the cross, which is the simplest combination of two straight lines, and in half the illustrations of this book is wholly innocent of religious or symbolic meaning.

MR. THISTLETON DYER'S "Folk-Lore of Plants" (Appleton) is a welcome contribution to a subject which is now attracting much attention. It is a study at once of literature, of flower-culture, and of popular superstitions, all woven together in an attractive and entertaining way. Nor is it merely the gossip of folk-lore; the scholarship and philosophy of the object find adequate treatment. The titles of some of the chapters will show sufficiently the scope of the book. It begins with "Plant Life," followed by "Primitive and Savage Notions respecting Plants," and "Plant Worship." Other chapters (there are twenty-three in all) are "Plants in Witchcraft," "Plants and the Weather," "Plants and the Calendar," "Children's Rhymes and Games." All these chapters are full of quaint and interesting information.

TOPICS IN LEADING PERIODICALS.

July, 1889.

Academical Oratory, Decline of. *Andover*.
American Diplomat, An. J. L. White. *Dial*.
André's Last Days. J. O. Drykman. *Mag. Am. History*.
Books That Have Hindered Me. Agnes Repplier. *Atlantic*.
Brandywine, The. H. M. Jenkins. *Harper*.
Christianity and Agnosticism. Rev. Dr. Wace. *Pop. Science*.
Civil Liberty. W. G. Sumner. *Popular Science*.
Creeds in Scotland. A. T. Innes. *Andover*.
Emerson's Private Life. O. F. Emerson. *Dial*.
English Men of Action. J. J. Halsey. *Dial*.
Fiction, Recent. Wm. M. Payne. *Dial*.
Fungi. T. H. McBride. *Popular Science*.

Glass-Making. W. A. Rogers. *Harper*.
 Goethe. Mary E. Nutting. *Andover*.
 Higher Education, Discipline in. N. S. Shaler. *Atlantic*.
 Huxley, Explanation to. Bishop of Peterborough. *Pop. Sci.*
 Iowa. Mr. Justice Miller. *Harper*.
 Lewis, Henry Carvill. *Popular Science*.
 Medicine, Limitations of. S. S. Burt. *Popular Science*.
 Mississippi, Discovery of. H. L. Reynolds. *Mag. Am. Hist.*
 Muscle and Mind. Frances E. White. *Popular Science*.
 North American Half Breeds. Wm. Barrows. *Andover*.
 Old Masters in New York. W. H. Downes. *Nautic*.
 Oxford Movement in the English Church. *Andover*.
 Petersburg Palaces. Theo. Child. *Harper*.
 Polynesian Kinship. C. N. Starcke. *Popular Science*.
 Railway Maladjustments. Benj. Reece. *Popular Science*.
 Reality. F. H. Johnson. *Andover*.
 Recent Books on Social Questions. John Bascom. *Dial*.
 Sea-Butterflies. Carl Vogt. *Popular Science*.
 Sea-Fishes, Artificial Propagation of. *Popular Science*.
 South and the School Problem. A. G. Haygood. *Harper*.
 Suicide. C. W. Pilgrim. *Popular Science*.
 Telegraph System. C. L. Buckingham. *Scribner*.
 Theological Seminaries, Over-Training in. *Andover*.
 Trotting Races. H. C. Merwin. *Atlantic*.
 Van de Velde, Adrian. E. Mason. *Harper*.
 Washington and William the Silent. *Mag. Am. History*.
 Washington Centennial. Martha J. Lamb. *Mag. Am. History*.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH.

[The following list includes all books received by THE DIAL during the month of June, 1889.]

LITERARY MISCELLANY.

The Writings of George Washington. Collected and Edited by Worthington Chauncey Ford. In 14 volumes. Vol. II., 1758-1775. Royal 8vo, pp. 502. Gilt top. G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$5.00.

George Washington. By Henry Cabot Lodge. In two volumes. 16mo. Gilt top. "American Statesmen." Houghton, Mifflin & Co. \$2.50.

Rogers and His Contemporaries. By P. W. Clayden, author of "The Early Life of Samuel Rogers." In two vols. 8vo. Gilt top. London: Smith, Elder & Co. \$5.

Amiel's Journal. The Journal Intime of Henri-Frédéric Amiel. Translated, with an Introduction and Notes, by Mrs. Humphry Ward, author of "Robert Elsmere." New Edition with a Portrait. 12mo, pp. 318. Uncut. Macmillan & Co. \$1.75.

Indoor Studies. By John Burroughs, author of "Wake Robin." 16mo, pp. 236. Houghton, Mifflin & Co. \$1.25.

The Jew in English Fiction. By Rabbi David Philipson, D.D. 16mo, pp. 136. Robert Clarke & Co. \$1.00.

Theocritus, Bion, and Moschus rendered into English Prose, with an Introductory Essay, by A. Lang, M.A. 18mo, pp. 210. Uncut. Macmillan & Co. \$1.25.

Essays by De Quincey: Murder Considered as One of the Fine Arts; Three Memorable Murders; and the Spanish Nun. 24mo, pp. 303. Gilt top. Putnam's "Knickerbocker Nuggets." \$1.00.

The Wit and Wisdom of Sydney Smith. A Selection of the Most Memorable Passages in His Writings and Conversation. 24mo, pp. 445. Gilt top. Putnam's "Knickerbocker Nuggets." \$1.00.

Deacons. By W. H. H. Murray, author of "Adventures in the Wilderness." 16mo, pp. 82. Cupples & Hurd. 75 cts.

The Sufferings of Christ: Their Origin, Nature, and Results. Mission Sermons. By Professor W. Clark, LL.D. Delivered during Holy Week, 1889, at Grace Church, Detroit, Mich. 4to, pp. 32. Detroit: Young Men's Association of Grace Church.

My Confession. Count Lyof N. Tolstoi. Translated from the Russian. A Companion Book to "My Religion." 12mo, pp. 242. Paper. T. Y. Crowell & Co. 50 cents.

BIOGRAPHY—HISTORY.

Diego Velazquez and His Times. By Carl Justi, Professor at the University of Bonn. Translated by Professor A. H. Keane, B.A., F.R.G.S., and Revised by the Author. With Etched Portrait and many Illustrations. 4to, pp. 506. Gilt top. J. B. Lippincott Co. Half-leather. \$10.00.

Eli and Sybil Jones. Their Life and Work. By Rufus M. Jones. With Two Portraits. 12mo, pp. 316. Porter & Coates. \$1.50.

Life of Henry Grattan. By Robert Dunlop. 16mo, pp. 236. "International Statesmen." J. B. Lippincott Co. 75 cents.

Henry the Seventh. By James Gairdner. 16mo, pp. 219. Macmillan's "Twelve English Statesmen." 60 cents.

Wellington. By George Hooper. With Portrait. 16mo, pp. 254. Macmillan's "English Men of Action." 60 cts.

The Winning of The West. By Theodore Roosevelt, author of "Hunting Trips of a Ranchman." 2 vols. 8vo. Gilt top. G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$5.00.

The Crusade of Richard I., 1189-92. Selected and Arranged by T. A. Archer, B.A. 16mo, pp. 395. Gilt top. "English History by Contemporary Writers." G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$1.25.

La Société Française au Dix-Septième Siècle. An Account of French Society in the XVII. Century, from Contemporary Writers. Edited for the Use of Schools and Colleges, with Introduction and Notes, by Thomas Frederick Crane, A.M. 18mo, pp. 342. G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$1.50.

Carlisle. By M. Creighton, M.A., D.C.L., LL.D. 16mo, pp. 215. Uncut. "Historic Towns." Longmans, Green, & Co. \$1.25.

POLITICAL STUDIES.

The River Towns of Connecticut: A Study of Wethersfield, Hartford, and Windsor. By Charles M. Andrews. 8vo, pp. 126. Paper. "Johns Hopkins University Studies." \$1.00.

The Beginnings of New England; or, The Puritan Theocracy and Its Relations to Civil and Religious Liberty. By John Fiske. 12mo, pp. 296. Houghton, Mifflin & Co. \$2.00.

SCIENCE—PHILOSOPHY.

The Ice Age in North America, and Its Bearings upon the Antiquity of Man. By G. Frederick Wright, D.D., LL.D., F.G.S.A., author of "Logic of Christian Evidences." With an Appendix on "The Probable Cause of Glaciation." by Warren Upham, F.G.S.A. Many New Maps and Illustrations. 8vo, pp. 622. D. Appleton & Co. \$5.00.

Darwinism. An Exposition of the Theory of Natural Selection, with Some of Its Applications. By Alfred Russell Wallace, LL.D., F.L.S. Illustrated. 12mo, pp. 494. Macmillan & Co. \$1.75.

Kant's Critical Philosophy for English Readers. By John P. Mahaffy, D.D., and John H. Bernard, B.D. A New and Completed Edition. Volume I., The Kritik of Pure Reason Explained and Defended. 12 mo., pp. 389. Macmillan & Co. \$1.75.

Psychology as a Natural Science applied to the Solution of Occult Psychic Phenomena. By C. G. Raue, M.D. 8vo, pp. 541. Porter & Coates. \$3.50.

Geonomy: Creation of the Continents by the Ocean Currents; and Kosmo-nomia: The Growth of Worlds and the Cause of Gravitation. By J. Stanley Grimes, author of "Problems of Creation." 16mo. J. B. Lippincott Co. 50 cents.

Fundamental Problems. The Method of Philosophy as a Systematic Arrangement of Knowledge. By Dr. Paul Carus. 12mo, pp. 267. Open Court Pub'g Co. \$1.00.

NATURAL SCIENCE.

Birds Through an Opera Glass. By Florence A. Merriam. 18mo, pp. 220. "Riverside Library for Young People." Houghton, Mifflin & Co. 75 cents.

Up and Down the Brooks. By Mary A. Bamford. 18mo, pp. 222. "Riverside Library for Young People." Houghton, Mifflin & Co. 75 cents.

POETRY.

The Bird-Bride. A Volume of Ballads and Sonnets. By Graham R. Tomson. 16mo, pp. 136. Gilt top. Longmans, Green, & Co. \$1.75.

The Tent on the Beach. By John Greenleaf Whittier. With an Introduction and Notes. 18mo, pp. 72. Paper. "Riverside Literature Series." Houghton, Mifflin & Co. 15 cents.

FICTION.

- Between the Lines.** A Story of the War. By Captain Charles King, U.S.A., author of "A War-Time Wooing." Illustrated. 12mo, pp. 312. Harper & Brothers. \$1.25.
- The Wrong Box.** By Robert Louis Stevenson and Lloyd Osbourne. 12mo, pp. 244. Charles Scribner's Sons. \$1.00.
- Miss Eyre from Boston, and Others.** By Louise Chandler Moulton, author of "Some Women's Hearts." 16mo, pp. 339. Roberts Brothers. \$1.25.
- The Fall of Kilman Kon.** By Arthur Cummings. 16mo, pp. 348. G. W. Dillingham. \$1.50.
- Kophetua the Thirteenth.** By Julian Corbett, author of "The Fall of Asgard." 16mo, pp. 333. Macmillan & Co. \$1.00.
- Bertha Laycourt.** A Novel. By Edgar C. Blum. 12mo, pp. 332. J. B. Lippincott Co. \$1.25.
- Merle's Crusade.** By Rose Rose Nouchette Carey, author of "Aunt Diana." 16mo, pp. 332. J. B. Lippincott Co. \$1.25.
- "Laramie"; or, the Queen of Bedlam.** A Story of the Sioux War of 1876. By Captain Charles King, U.S.A., author of "The Colonel's Daughter." 16mo, pp. 277. J. B. Lippincott Co. \$1.00.
- A Woodland Wooing.** By Eleanor Putnam. 16mo, pp. 289. Roberts Brothers. \$1.00.
- Inside Our Gate.** By Christine Chaplin Brush, author of "The Colonel's Opera Cloak." 16mo, pp. 304. Roberts Brothers. \$1.00.
- A Sage of Sixteen.** By L. B. Walford, author of "Mr. Smith." 16mo, pp. 243. Holt's "Leisure Hour Series." \$1.
- Uncle Peter's Trust; or, Following the Drum.** By George B. Perry. Illustrated. Square 18mo, pp. 283. Harper & Brothers. \$1.00.
- Two Daughters of One Race.** By W. Heimburg, author of "Gertrude's Marriage." Translated by Mrs. D. M. Lowrey. Illustrated. 12mo, pp. 329. Paper. Uncut. Worthington Co. 75 cents.
- In the Wire-Grass.** A Novel. By Louis Pendleton, author of "Bewitched, and Other Stories." 16mo, pp. 245. Paper. Appleton's "Town and Country Library." 50 cts.
- Lace.** A Berlin Romance. By Paul Lindau. 16mo, pp. 324. Paper. Appleton's "Town and Country Library." 50 cts.
- Cleopatra:** Being an Account of the Fall and Vengeance of Harmachis, the Royal Egyptian, as Set Forth by His Own Hand. By H. Rider Haggard, author of "She." Illustrated. 16mo, pp. 300. Paper. Harper's "Franklin Square Library." 25 cents.
- The Scarlet Letter.** By Nathaniel Hawthorne. 16mo, pp. 312. "Riverside Paper Series." Houghton, Mifflin & Co. 50 cents.
- The Secret of the Lamas.** A Tale of Thibet. 16mo, pp. 235. Cassell's "Sunshine Series." 50 cents.
- The Last of the Van Slacks.** A Story of To-day. By Edward S. Van Zile, author of "Wanted—A Sensation." 16mo, pp. 325. Cassell's "Sunshine Series." 50 cents.
- The Smuggler of King's Cove; or, The Old Chapel Mystery.** By Sylvanus Cobb, Jr., author of "The Painter of Parma." 16mo, pp. 251. Paper. Cassell's "Sunshine Series." 50 cents.
- A Lost Wife.** A Novel. By Mrs. H. Lovett Cameron, author of "In a Grass Country." 16mo, pp. 288. Lippincott's "Select Novels." 25 cents.
- The Devil and I.** A Novel. 16mo, pp. 332. Paper. G. W. Dillingham. 50 cents.
- Zaraila.** A Novel. By Beulah. 16mo, pp. 323. Paper. G. W. Dillingham. 50 cents.
- Rocks and Shoals.** A Novel. By Bella French Swisher. 16mo, pp. 379. Paper. G. W. Dillingham. 50 cents.
- Micah Clarke:** His Statement as Made to his Three Grandchildren during the Hard Winter of 1734. By A. Conan Doyle. 8vo, pp. 288. Paper. Harper's "Franklin Square Library." 45 cents.

REFERENCE—TEXT-BOOKS.

- The Century Dictionary.** An Encyclopedic Lexicon of the English Language. Prepared under the Superintendence of William Dwight Whitney, Ph.D., LL.D., Professor of Comparative Philology and Sanskrit in Yale University. In Six Volumes. Vol. I., Part I., A—Appet. 4to, pp. 272. The Century Co. \$2.50.

A Dictionary of Music and Musicians. (A.D. 1450–1889). By Eminent Writers, English and Foreign. Illustrated. Edited by Sir George Grove, D.C.L., Director Royal College of Music, London. With Appendix, Edited by J. A. Fuller Maitland, M.A. In 4 vols. Vol. IV. 8vo, pp. 820. Macmillan & Co. \$6.00.

The Government Year Book: A Record of the Forms and Methods of Government in Great Britain, Her Colonies, and Foreign Countries, 1889, with an Introduction on the Diffusion of Popular Government over the Globe, the Nature and Extent of International Jurisdictions, and a Review of the Chief Occurrences Affecting National and International Government in 1888. Edited by Lewis Sargent, author of "New Greece." 12mo, pp. 550. London: T. Fisher Unwin. \$2.00.

A Latin-English Dictionary. By C. G. Gepp, M.A., author of "Progressive Exercises in Latin Elegiac Verse," and A. E. Heigh, M.A. 16mo, pp. 563. Ginn & Co. \$1.40.

Principles of Procedure in Deliberative Bodies. By George Glover Crocker, Pres. Mass. Senate, 1883. 18mo, pp. 167. G. P. Putnam's Sons. 75 cents.

A Guide to the Study of Nineteenth Century Authors. By Louise Manning Hodgkins. 12mo. D. C. Heath & Co. \$1.50.

Plato's Protagoras. With the Commentary of Hermann Sauppe. Translated, with Additions, by James A. Towle. 8vo, pp. 179. Ginn's "College Series of Greek Authors." \$1.50.

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